



**The Ohio Speech and Debate Association**  
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[www.theosda.org](http://www.theosda.org)

**Alan Bates, OSDA Board Chair**  
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## **2024-2025 New Program Fee Waiver Overview**

**Program Description:** The Ohio Speech and Debate Association New Program Fee Waiver Grant is designed to expand the Association's membership around the state of Ohio. Interested parties may apply for financial assistance in facilitating the mission of the Association through establishing a competitive forensics program at a school not currently affiliated with the OSDA. It is the intent of the Association to have new programs receiving assistance to eventually become autonomous entities supported by their school or school district.

**Who We Are:** The Ohio Speech and Debate Association is a non-profit organization (as certified by the state of Ohio) of public, private and parochial high schools in Ohio and is organized exclusively for educational purposes.

### **The purpose of this organization shall include:**

- ⌘ Educational development - to develop the skills of analysis, research, critical thinking, and informative and persuasive communication, understanding and appreciation of literature, oral interpretation of literary, dramatic, and oratorical selections.
- ⌘ Civic development - to develop understanding of public issues on local, national, and world levels, to prepare for the responsible exercise of citizenship rights and duties, especially to prepare for articulate and informed civic leadership.
- ⌘ Social development - to develop better understanding and tolerance among students of different schools and communities, to stimulate interest in the solving of social problems, to develop well-balanced personalities in competitive situations.
- ⌘ Ethical development - to develop personal qualities of truthfulness, fairness, and tolerance in bearing the ethical responsibility of public speakers to be honest and to learn to win or lose graciously.

**Included you will find pertinent information to consider as you complete the application process.**

### **Fee Waivers:**

- ⌘ One year Waiver of annual OSDA chapter membership fee (\$125.00)
- ⌘ Waiver of district tournament entry fees (varies according to district)
- ⌘ Waiver of state tournament entry fees (\$17.00 per student who qualifies)
- ⌘ Waiver of all OSDA coach's conferences and coach's workshop fees

**School and Applicant Eligibility:**

- ☞ Program under consideration is a public, private, parochial, charter, or vocational school within Ohio state limits. This program is not intended to assist for profit entities; however, applications will not be dismissed solely based on this philosophy.
- ☞ Program under consideration is new to the OSDA.
- ☞ Program under consideration has been a dormant OSDA chapter for 5 or more Years. (The 2020-2021 season does not count against the dormancy requirement.)

**Approval Process:**

Please email Alan Bates, OSDA Board Chair ([abates@theosda.org](mailto:abates@theosda.org)) to request approval.

**Applicant Responsibilities to Successfully Fulfill Obligations:**

Receiving program must attend at least one tournament a month to be eligible for all of the fee waivers.

**Before Applying, interested persons should review and consider the following\*:**

- ☞ Review the OSDA manuals (available at TheOSDA.org) that describes in Detail the structure of our organization, competitive events, and member responsibilities
- ☞ Review the competitive calendar (available at TheOSDA.org) to determine possible conflicts
- ☞ Meet with necessary school administration to receive approval
- ☞ With the assistance of school administration determine: when and where preparation and practice may occur; means of transportation to and from tournaments; method of payment in accordance with district policy; and establish issues of liability and applicant protections in accordance to school/district policy.

*\* The Association is more than happy to help applicants and administrators navigate these issues and answer any questions.*

**Upon acceptance into the grant program, the following will be provided:**

- ☞ Placement of your school within one of the Association's seven districts based on applicant's geographical location
- ☞ Assignment of one or more mentors to assist you in establishing the structure and running of your programming
- ☞ Assistance with performance and research materials for competition
- ☞ Shadowing opportunities deemed beneficial by the applicant
- ☞ Assistance in completing necessary program documentation, tournament registration, and establishment of individual chapter methodologies
- ☞ Continuous assistance access from the Association office and the OSDA Board of Directors for both you and the school administration